

Appl. No. 10/010,031
Amdt. dated June 8, 2006
Reply to Office action of March 8, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants received the Office action dated March 8, 2006, in which the Examiner: 1) rejected claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sudia (U.S. Pat. No. 5,659,616, hereinafter "Sudia"); 2) rejected claims 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tycksen, Jr. et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,189,097, hereinafter "Tycksen"); and 3) rejected claims 26-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tycksen in view of Sudia. With this Response, Applicants have amended claims 26, 28, and 29 and canceled claims 1, 2, 4-13, 15-22 and 32-35.

Method claim 23 requires retrieving a first signed certificate, combining the first signed certificate with other values, computing a hash of the preceding combination, and signing said hash. The Examiner identified Figures 1 and 7 and col. 4, line 12 (which refers to Figure 9) of Tycksen for the limitation "retrieving a first signed certificate." Figure 1 shows an exemplary format of a certificate. Figure 7 shows a process for signing the certificate of Figure 1. Figure 9 shows a process for retrieving a text-based component from the certificate of Figure 1.

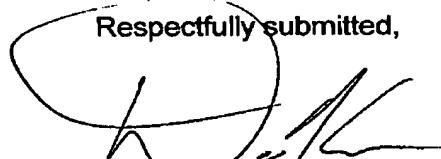
As noted above, claim 23 requires combining the retrieved first signed certificate with other values and then computing a hash of the resulting combination. For this combination of limitations, the Examiner pointed to the Figures 1 and 3 and col. 5, lines 52-53 of Tycksen. Figure 3 shows a process for creating the certificate of Figure 1 which includes "selective placement of components therein." Col. 3, lines 65-67. Figure 3 relates to a process for creating the certificate, not for combining an already-created certificate with other values. Col. 5 refers to hashing, but does not disclose hashing a signed certificate that has been combined with other values. Col. 5 states, for example, that "DSLC 10 is subject to hashing algorithms." Col. 5, line 32. Thus, while the certificate (DSLC 10) may be hashed, Tycksen does not disclose a hashing a certificate that has been combined with other values. No other art of record satisfies the deficiency of Tycksen. For at least this reason, claim 23 and its dependent claims are allowable.

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Claim 26 has been amended to be allowable for the same or similar reason as for claim 23. Accordingly, claim 26 and its dependent claims 26-31 are allowable over the art of record.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

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